Boston, December 4. 1846.

My dear Mr. Estlin,

I sent you a letter, more hurriedly written than I like, by the Steamship which sailed on Tuesday last - therein saying that I purposed sending you a small parcel of pamphlets, by the regular trading-packet of the 5th, - to be accompanied by a letter or two, as I hoped. - And here I will digress so far as to allude to your remark that the freight & other charges, on the articles sent from Bristol to this year's Anti-slavery Bazaar, amounted to £9. or 10., a very large sum indeed; and you added that you wished you knew of a less expensive manner of sending. Now these regular packet-ships between Liverpool and Boston are just what you want. They are staunch, and mostly swift-sailing vessels; I went, a day or two since, on board of one of them - the "Anglo-Saxon" - and was surprised to find her so beautifully & even luxuriously fitted up for passengers. I knew this was the case with the N. York & Liverpool Packet-ships, but had not supposed it was so with the Boston ships. Apart from this, they are excellent vessels, well commanded, & sailing regularly - from Boston, the 5th of every month, from Liverpool, the 20th.* Besides these are what are called the transient vessels, constantly taking freights from L. to Boston, in almost any of which it would be safe to send. But these regular trading-vessels are built for quick sailers, and you might be ~~almost~~ quite sure that articles forwarded in them would not be subject to any great detention. My father says the freight-charges, by these vessels, are not one-fourth of what they are in the Steam-ships. A long digression, to be sure. -

* The Liverpool agents of these Ships are Baring Brothers & Co. - i.e. the Liverpool branch, under that name.

I will now ~~so~~ speak of the contents of the parcel, in which this goes. I have procured a "Standard" of Octo. 1st for you. It is singular that the ~~no~~ numbers which failed to reach you should have been just that one which contained a notice of your "Brief Notice, &c. &c." - also, extracts from your letter of Sept. 3d. to me. You will find, also, in same paper, an account of one of the quarterly Meetings of our Worcester County Society, furnished by myself. - I send a pamphlet on the "Slave Power", which has made a good deal of noise here. Its author, John G. Palfrey, you will perhaps recognise as having been long the Pastor of Brattle Street Church (Unitarian) in this city; afterwards Professor of Biblical Literature & Criticism in Harvard College, and the principal officer in the Theological School. He has published a volume or two of Sermons, and Lectures on the Old Testament, in 2 Vols. Afterwards - about 1836, perhaps - he left the College, and took up literary life, editing the "North American Review". In a sort of quiet & insensible way (apparently) he glided into politics, as we say - got chosen one of the 30 or 40 Representatives of Boston in the annual State Legislature - "acted well his part" there, and subsequently was chosen Secretary of the Commonwealth, an office not laborious and giving him (I think) $1800. a year. ~~During this~~ You must have heard of his noble act, in setting free, at great expense of time, labour & money to himself, a number of Slaves, 20 or more, which fell to his lot in the division of his father's estate, who was a Louisiana planter. During the last Summer, he pubbished in a Boston Newspaper, the "Daily Whig" (organ of a highly respectable & somewhat numerous section of the Whig party in this State, called the "Anti-Slavery" or "Independent Whigs") a series of papers on the "Slave Power". They attracted much attention, and were put into this pamphlet form. Mr. Palfrey was nominated the regular Whig Candidate for Congress from the 4th

Congressional District in this State, lying chiefly in Middlesex County, including Cambridge (where he resides), Charlestown, Lexington, Concord, with many smaller towns. I am very sorry to say that he failed of an election the first trial, the "Liberty Party" in that district, with their usual pertinacity, adhering to their own candidate, who received considerably over 1000 votes, a 3d or 4th of which number, in addition to those he received, would have elected ~~Dixon~~ Mr. Palfrey. A 2d trial will take place in a few weeks, when a new effort will be made for Mr. Palfrey. — I am sure you will be interested in his pamphlet, and will find very much to approve. Probably you will not agree with him, when he comes to discuss the question of remedies. — I send you, too, the pamphlet issuing from the Faneuil Hall meeting on the late case of Kidnapping in Boston! The Address, I presume, was written by Dr. Howe. — I send some Sermons of Mr. Parker's, which have caused a "strong sensation" — on "War," and on the "Perishing Classes in Boston". Perhaps you have heretofore seen the one on "War". I do not know but I sent you one in the parcel by Mrs Garrison. — I send 3 copies of the "Unitarian Annual Register for 1847"; one each for yourself, Mr. Armstrong, & Mr. James. Its statement of the "Committee, &c. to write a letter on Slavery, &c." (page 38) is entirely erroneous — or, at least, I never heard of such a Committee. The Committee appointed to reply to a Letter of the Irish Unit. Ch. Society, consisted of 10 or 12 individuals — among them, Revs. A. P. Peabody, F. H. Hedge, James F. Clarke, G. F. Simmons, S. Osgood, John Parkman jr. & Geo. W. Briggs, John A. Andrew Esq., and myself. Otherwise, so far as I have examined, I believe the Register is to be relied upon. — I also put in, as they will not materially increase the size of the parcel, 2 ~~Numbers~~ copies of the 14th Report of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, which you may like to hand to some of your friends. I wish I could add to the parcel ~~thus~~ something else which would interest

you, but believe I must stop here for the present. – The "Liberator" of to-day (which I send to Miss Carpenter) contains some sad developement (on the first page) of the mind & character of Dr. Campbell of the Christian Witness. I was before minded to enquire of you who Dr. Campbell is. You ~~mention~~ speak of him, in your last letter. Is he any relative of the Dr. George Campbell of Aberdeen?

Now I think of it – I will inquire if you received from me, by Mr. Garrison, a roll containing lithographic portraits of Cassius M. Clay and Abby Kelley Foster. I sent such to you; you may not deem it any great loss, if you have not received them. I have inclined to think that, in some way, they got diverted from their intended destination, as I believe you have not mentioned them, and they are things on which you would be likely to make some criticisms, as you did on F. Douglas's portrait. In the Anti-Slavery Office today, I saw a framed engraving of C.M. Clay, which has for some time hung there, suspended upside down – quite a suitable illustration of the topsy-turvy position he has put himself in, by going to fight the battles of Slavery, &c.

I have been reading today the 2 articles on your pamphlet, in the C. Reformer for October & November. I have read them with great pleasure. It is a great deal to be said the first time, as it were. The Editor, where he cannot agree with us & approve, very candidly admits that his want of acquaintance with all the circumstances, necessary to enable one to pronounce an impartial judgment, may be in whole or part the reason of that disagreement. He has given his readers something to think about; the articles must have the effect to awaken some sympathy, & inspire some respect, with & for the real Abolitionists of this country – as well as to diffuse, in a succinct form, much valuable information. The quoting from your tract of the passage about Dr. Dewey appears to me, in view of the previous

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course of the "Reformer", quite a bold act. I am pretty sure the stand-still party — the do-nothing party among the American Unitarians, will grumble somewhat even at these very moderate & dispassionate articles. May they have renewed & increasing cause to complain, on this wise. — While there is much to depress & dishearten the Anti-Slavery workers, there are also encouraging signs, on our right hand and our left, and so we must struggle on, and hope the best. Mr. Palfrey, with whom I dined a day or two since, expressed very strongly his conviction that they who lived 20 yrs. longer would see the complete overthrow of Slavery in this land. We, who trust more exclusively in moral power, look for this great end, in less time than 20 years. — One thing about Dr Palfrey's pamphlet I must tell you. — Dr. Gannett read it with great attention & interest, as he acknowledged, and said to Mr. Clarke (Rev. James F., who himself told me this) — "This thing is brought to me in a new light; I do not know but I ought to be an Abolitionist." Could you but know how vehement, how bitter, how scornful, Mr. G.'s condemnations of the Abolitionists have been, anytime the last 6 or 8 years, you would share the amazement with which I heard of such language as this now coming from his lips. Whether he will allow the feeling to die away fruitless, time must determine; but, you may rely upon it, his mind & soul were subjected to a trying conflict, before he could have uttered, and to a decided Anti-Slavery man like Clarke, these words.

I am very glad to hear that there is a prospect your "Brief Notice" will be stereotyped; I trust the suggestion will be carried out. Since Mr. Garrison's visit to England, I am more convinced than before of the great need of such a tract as yours to inform, arouse, & direct the public mind on this great question of "American Slavery". You have

me strong ~~evidence~~ proof & illustration how powerful ~~this~~ here is the influence of British sentiment in the exceeding pains taken by the 60 American priests in the Evangelical Alliance to get the voice of that body, openly or tacitly in their favour, and in support of the Christian character of Slaveholders. They got it, shame & woe to that Evangelical (!) body! Christ was never more grievously wounded in the house of his pretended friends. That Evangelical Alliance might have struck the blow, which (Consistently & honestly followed up) would have sent Slavery reeling to its grave. It had the power so to brand American Slavery before all Christian nations, as would have made it a stench, a loathsome, shunned, & discarded thing, among all who called the name of Christ. But it betrayed Christ – it denied him, and chose the "thief" & the "murderer". Oh! their prayers. Strange that men, not fools, can be deceived by prayers! Some of your wise men & papers – not less than our rankest pro-slavery advocates – talk of those long and frequent prayers as indubitable & irresistible evidence of genuine godliness and true religion. To my mind, they only increase the guilt of these wolves in sheep's clothing. But I must forbear; for the night is far advanced; and I have yet some points to touch upon.

I believe I did not, in my letter last Tuesday, say aboves Mr. Garrison just what I wished to say. I would not appear to dispute your judgment, so much more likely to be correct, as to the mistakes made by Mr. G. in England. Assuredly, I will not deny that he made mistakes. He may have gone out of his way to give his opinions on "vexed English questions"; if so, certainly this was a mistake. But, may it not be, that to him it did not appear to be travelling out of the record? Such is the way & in which I

cannot refrain from viewing it; knowing, as I do, how intimately, & habitually, all questions touching the natural heaven-ordained rights of man, are joined & allied, each to the other, in his mind. I know he wishes to be, not the advocate of the Slave alone, but of every form of injured and wronged humanity; nay, I know he is well convinced that he best subserves the Slave's cause, when he makes it identical with the civil, social & individual rights of every human being. This is the view, I confess, which I am strongly inclined to take of his course in England, so far as I am informed about it; and yet I do not wish to question the judgment you form, for the reason that your position gives ~~confers~~ you opportunities to form such a judgment which I do not at all possess. — I feel that, if he ~~were~~ has been injudicious only, the really wise and good will soon get above and beyond that, and the cause will not ultimately suffer; but, if it be that it is because he uttered great truths, essential to be uttered in English ears before they can fully appreciate the anti-slavery struggle, that many or any turn away from him, I cannot for one find it in my heart to regret, much less condemn, the course he pursued. — I cannot think Mr. G. wished to make himself "unpopular with the middle classes" among you. It is more in accordance with his habit to make his appeals to, and place his main reliance upon, these. And would it not be to his condemnation justly, if it could be said of him, on his return home, that he had never protested, in England, against Monarchy, as a principle, nor against the social distinctions & awful inequalities among your population, &c. &c.? — I have no doubt, with you, that Joseph Sturge is ~~an~~ a relentless enemy of Mr. Garrison. I suspect

Joseph Sturge is something like Gerrit Smith with us; — he cannot forego the distinction, the consideration, which he enjoys, arising from his wealth, & from his position among the Friends. He nurses his dignity, and is ever on the watch to see that it receives no detriment. I have before thought him very deficient in candour & fairness.

It seems you condemned Mr. Haughton's article about Mrs. Dana — Now I think Mr. Hincks has taken the right view of that article of Mr. Haughton's; viz. that his object was to deprecate the fervid expressions of joy among the Unitarians at Mr. Dana's conversion, until they had learned whether or not she were a favorer of that institution of Slavery, in the midst of which she had dwelled so long. And it strikes me that the way in which this point is settled ought to affect, very decidedly, the view we take of Mrs. Dana's case.

Speaking of the "Inquirer" I must express my pleasure at seeing the new department in it, viz. the "Anti-Slavery Register".

George Thompson, it seems to me, has entitled himself to the heartiest thanks and respect of every lover of Christianity & Freedom. His labors have been very abundant, very timely, very powerful, and I think must have been very effective, also. I read the report, in the "Inquirer", of his Speech in the Case of the Rajah of Sattara, and was much impressed by its eloquence & force of argument. I became quite interested in the case. His speech at the "League" in London, or the "Evangelical Alliance" seemed to me a most masterly and unanswerable effort; — indeed all his speeches touching that "Alliance" have been of great ability. I am curious to see how he overthrew Dr. S. H. Cox, at Liverpool. Dr. C.

no. 3.

Dr. C. never went near him, I will venture to say.

I shall bear in mind your suggestion about having slips, of the Report of the Bazaar, struck off, and forwarded to you for distribution. You speak of having 1000 sent for Bristol, Exeter & Bridgwater. Is it possible you can distribute ~~that~~ that number among Antislavery workers in those towns?

We are getting members of the "Antislavery League" in this Country. Myself, my wife, and two oldest children, have enrolled our names, and taken Cards of membership.

You have now in England another Ex-Unitarian Minister as Minister from U. States at your Court — George Bancroft, the Historian of the United States, of America, I should say. He is the son of Rev. Dr. Aaron Bancroft, for more than 50 years Minister of the 2d Congl. Society in Worcester, the first Unitarian Society in the interior of New England, and one of the first in the Country. Mr. Geo. Bancroft studied theology & preached as an Unitarian minister; but he never became a settled pastor, being a most disagreeable speaker, and he soon abandoned the profession for school-teaching. This he forsook, to study, and to write american History. For the past 5 or 6 years, he has been deeply immersed in politics, espousing the most radical Democratic views, going for Texas & Slavery & War, and everything else the Slaveholding Power has demanded, with a most humiliating facility. He has been Collector of the Port of Boston — an office in the gift of the Pres^t. of the U States; — also Mr. Polk's Secretary of the Navy, and now his Envoy to your Government. What feats he will perform in your land remain to be seen; doubtless, some will be seen. Like Mr. Everett, he has pretty much forgotten his early Unitarianism, and attends the popular churches, when at all.

MS B.A.L. 912.P39

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Dec^r 4, 1846

You may like to hear a few words about my personal affairs. I have been very urgently solicited to become the Minister of the First Ecclesiastical Society in Brooklyn Conn., the Society of which my Cousin S. J. May was Minister for some 10 or 11 years. It is a small Society, but, so far as I am acquainted, in quite a living and hopeful condition. I have consented to make a beginning, and preach to them & labour for them 3 or 4 months, commencing January 1st. What will come of it, I cannot foresee. I had almost resolved never to become a settled minister again. — Meanwhile my family will continue to reside in Leicester, at least until Spring. The 2 places are but 35 miles apart, and there is communication by Railroad between them the greater part of the way. — When you write to me, therefore, please direct to care of Samuel May Esq. Boston, — who will send them to me, according as I may be in Brooklyn, or in Leicester.

I am sure I shall get, with you & my Bristol friends who may happen to read this, the character of a regular gossip. But, I believe I may truly say, I am not one. It is very rare that I am so communicative in conversation, as I have been here on paper to you.

I may say, as Mr. Reipert said to his wife in one of his letters to her written when he was in Europe, — "forgive me when I do not write to you, and when I do."

With sincere regards to Miss Estlin, and grateful remembrance to all my Bristol friends, I remain

Most truly & respectfully Yours

Samuel May.

P. S. Decr. 5th

I saw Mrs. Chapman yesterday for a moment. She said that the principal box from Bristol had not yet come out of the Custom House. It was suffered to lie there, by advice of some friend, over the 1st of December, as on that day the New Tariff comes into operation, under which the duties are diminished on many articles, and wd. be, it was said, on the contents of your box. She had received a smaller box, and it was in that the little volume of Chambers' Miscellany, for my children, was found. Ade. wishes me to say that she meant to write to your daughter & thank her for the pretty book, but did not know that I was about sending so soon; and this morning — when I supposed she would write — she has must go on an errand for her Mother. She will not forget to write, I know.

Taken out of a Ship letter addressed to
Messrs Wright & Co Liverpool charged £2.4.0
& refused Do Jany 14/47

Fo John B. Estlin Esq.
47 Park Street
Bristol
England.

Ms: Mary

Dec. 4. 1846

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